



NOAA - National Weather Service

Tampa Bay Area

2525 14th Avenue SE, Ruskin, Florida 33570

813-645-2323

<http://weather.gov/tampa>

Mountain Lake 75 Year Institution Award, Tampa Bay Area – Ruskin, FL

The National Weather Service (NWS) Cooperative Observer Program (COOP) is truly the Nation's weather and climate observing network of, by and for the people. More than 11,000 volunteers take observations on farms, in urban and suburban areas, National Parks, seashores, and mountaintops. The data are truly representative of where people live, work and play. One such site is located in Lake Wales, FL. Here, observers take temperature and precipitation data daily, which is then sent to the National Weather Service and the National Climatic Data Center. A 75 Year Institution Award was recently presented to the Mountain Lake Corporation at Lake Wales, FL from the Tampa Bay Area – Ruskin, FL National Weather Service Forecast Office. The award is given in recognition of 75 years of collecting weather data. Pictured below, from left are Meteorologist Intern Nicole Carlisle, Meteorologist-In-Charge Brian LaMarre, Mountain Lake Corporation Maintenance John Heintzelman, Mountain Lake Corporation Supervisor Gary Stephens, Meteorologist Intern Tyler Fleming, HMT Tom Dougherty, Mountain Lake Corporation Maintenance Ron Byrd.

Among the notable weather events the Mountain Lake station recorded was during the tropical season of 2004 when the center of 3 hurricanes (Charley, Frances, and Jeanne) passed within 15 miles of the station, dropping a total of over 17 inches of rain and sustaining major tree damage to the area.



Photo by Chip Newton, Lake Wales News